



COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
  
COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0509**

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee of Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$4,000,000 for St. Joseph's Medical Center Pediatric Expansion and Enhancement Services in the fiscal year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The project sponsor for this project is St. Joseph's Medical Center, and the project is located at 1800 N. California Street, Stockton, CA 95204.

Funding for this project will contribute 100% to the expansion and improvement of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Pediatric services by providing state-of-the-art equipment, eight additional beds, and enhancements to the comprehensive remodel of the Pediatric Unit. Both the additional NICU Equipment and Pediatric Unit Remodel and Expansion will result in the principal outcome - to improve the access of pediatric, neonatal and pediatric specialty services for children 0-18 years of age at St. Joseph's Medical Center (SJMC); thereby, improving the overall health and wellness of the pediatric population in the region. The Pediatric Unit Remodel and Expansion further improves accessibility of care for children 0-18 years of age. Overall, this Project will increase the percentage of children with access to local preventive, primary, and specialty health care.

SJMC is physically located in Stockton, California and is a not-for-profit regional, multi-campus, 355-bed general acute care teaching hospital. Nationally recognized as a quality leader, SJMC is consistently chosen as the "most preferred hospital" by local patients. It is the largest hospital and one of the largest employers in San Joaquin County, employing over 2,300 residents. Notably, SJMC launched a Graduate Medical Education (GME) program in 2018 to mitigate the stark physician shortages being experienced in the San Joaquin Valley region. The additional GME programs will result in significantly more physicians from outside the region coming to train and practice in the San Joaquin Valley. Another benefit of a teaching hospital is the ability to recruit faculty and residents who mirror the community demographics, enhance diversity, and are committed to building trust and equity in the healthcare delivery system in San Joaquin County.

Funding for this project is a good use of taxpayer funds, as it will greatly increase access to care in an equitable system of care – a priority for the county. Moreover, this will not only increase access to pediatric care, but also so specialists. It will also create jobs because of the increased number of beds and enhancements. SJMC recruitment efforts of pediatric specialists will greatly improve as the volume of cases increases and with access to new state-of-the-art equipment necessary to treat children in need of specialty care.

Furthermore, with the closures of dedicated pediatric units at other hospital facilities in San Joaquin County, SJMC has become the only hospital facility to have a dedicated pediatric unit. Concomitantly, SJMC is continuing to develop a robust, holistic, comprehensive approach to providing pediatric services that begin with providing care to high-risk prenatal mothers through pediatric care with the overarching goal of enhancing and expanding access to pediatric care within San Joaquin County and surrounding areas. This funding will provide the support needed to drastically increase access to care and enhance the quality of care so that children and families can receive health care close to home.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress